Volume 5, No. 24 • October 23, 1998

Nation

Laverne Contois

Aboriginal Women of Montreal

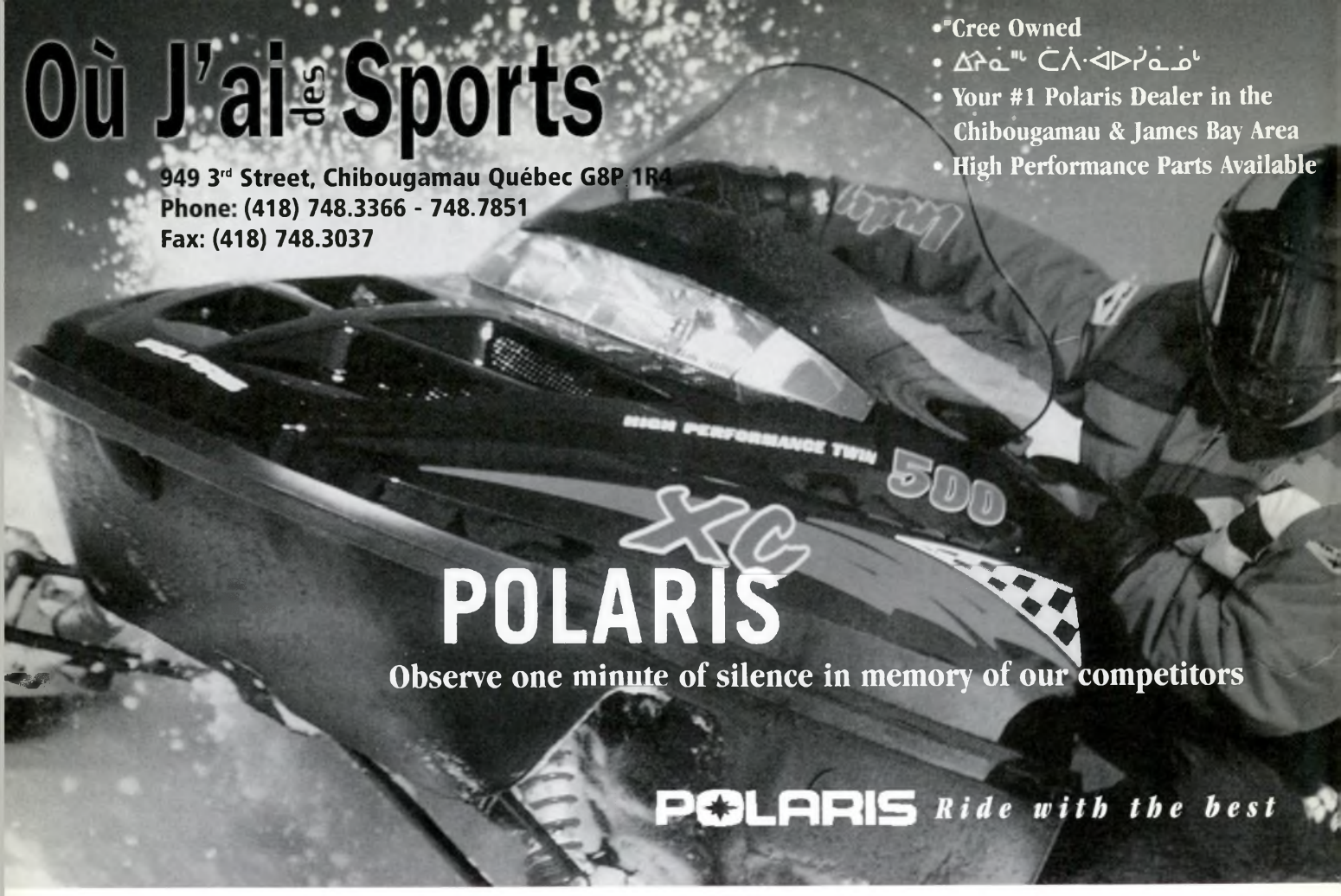
$2 Free in *Iyiyuuschii*

Serving *Iyiyuuschii* since 1993

Où J'ai des Sports

949 3rd Street, Chibougamau Québec G8P 1R4
Phone: (418) 748.3366 - 748.7851
Fax: (418) 748.3037

- Cree Owned
- ᐃᓕᓴᐤ ᑕᐱᐧᐃᐧᐋᓂᐦ
- Your #1 Polaris Dealer in the Chibougamau & James Bay Area
- High Performance Parts Available



POLARIS

Observe one minute of silence in memory of our competitors

POLARIS *Ride with the best*

·ᐊᓂᔑ CANADIAN TIRE WACHIYA!

• Hunting • Fishing • Camping •
• Ammunition • Sporting Goods •
• Automotive Parts & Repair •
• Hardware & Houseware

C.O.D.'s ACCEPTED

Phone or Fax in your orders
Toll Free: 1-877-762-4375
Fax:819.762.4374

ROUYN-NORANDA
10 Dallaire Promenades du Cuivre

Jacques Carignan
Associate Dealer

RESTAURANT

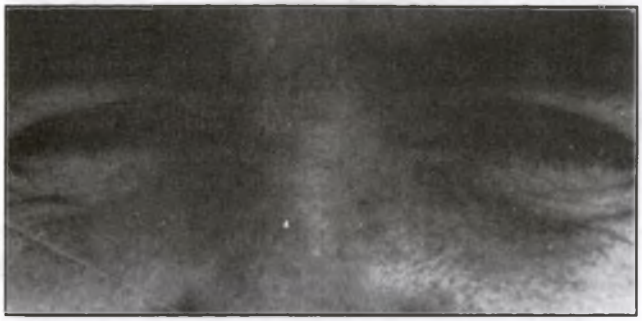
La Chaumière

RESTAURANT
571, 3e RUE CHIBOUGAMAU
TEL.: 1-418-748-4818 FAX: 1-418-748-7330

OPEN 24 HOURS

Over 100 different menus!
Choices and variety such as
Italian food, Chinese food.
The best chicken, the best
steak in town.
You'll feel at home.

WACHIYA EVERYONE WELCOME!



Carte Blanche

A noun meaning full discretionary power

Well, one day, we were all out there walking together. I mean everybody was there from five Cree communities, the leadership, the trappers, the townies, the Elders, the youth, the business people. When I say everybody I mean everybody. The leaders gathered us around and said we were needed. They told us it was time to walk together, hand in hand, to fight forestry companies coming on our land and hurting it. Many a trapper and tallyman was invited to come forth and put their names on a court case to search for justice for the trees and the Crees. Your voices mean something, we were told. It felt like the leadership had reconnected to the people once again.

Of course that was overturned by an assembly of chiefs making illegal decisions under either the JBNQA or the Cree-Naskapi Act. I've said it before and I'll say it again. A chiefs' meeting means nothing. It was never envisioned in the first place, let alone empowered under any act or regulation or law concerning Cree government, yet it is out there running rampart.

Just why do I go on about these things? Because not only did a chiefs' meeting ride roughshod over a consultative process that lead to the forestry court case, but it ran right over the idea that in the end the Cree people were the ones to have the last say.

It makes a mockery of the concept of Cree consent meaning the will of the Cree people. From where I stand Cree consent is at least, as Billy Diamond put it, a decision of the full Council/Board of the Grand Council/Cree Regional Authority. But now, if the chiefs are superseding even this, then Cree consent has taken another ride down the trail to meaning nothing. One vote for one person is becoming one vote period, it would seem.

Given that the will of the people seems to mean nothing to the leadership, then how can we trust them and Quebec concerning our other Cree institutions? Remember back when I freaked out on Issue No. 5 of the Cree-Quebec MOU Agreement: the nasty little rider that says regional entities and organizations are to be reviewed by Crees and Quebec with an eye to abolishing some, merging others, streamlining and maybe changing a few mandates here and there.

Don't worry, we were told, as "Cree consent" was needed. From my chair, given the forestry case turnaround, I can see Cree consent doesn't mean the choice of the people but whatever the chiefs decide. No doubt for our own benefit. After all they have the big picture and peons like ourselves who are not of the intelligensia or power elite will just have to put up with whatever crumbs of democracy are tossed our way.

Without some honouring of and needed changes to the Cree decision-making process, that's all we will ever get: the crumbs of democracy. One writer called one of the previous Grand Chiefs "the benevolent dictator of the North." Could this apply to the whole leadership?

Recent actions show Cree leadership is acting with carte blanche and little accountability. I predict the gutting of valued Cree institutions in the future, following yet more stale court cases that seem to be just a prelude to negotiations.

If this is so, next time you want to do a power play for the negotiating table please leave the people out of it. It just destroys the leadership's credibility all around.

I am not even saying the decision to suspend the court case was wrong. But the actions taken were. After empowering people the leadership did not even give them a semblance of letting them in on the decision to suspend the case or not while negotiating. This arrogance and actions of the leadership in the end is the true disappointment.

by William Nicholls

Contents

NEWS

5 **SDBJ out**
Cree unity elusive

5 **Quebec threat?**
Funds taken hostage?

7 **Walk for water**
B.C. woman's protest

7 **Briefs**
Highway tragedy

COVER

10 **Laverne Contois**
An interview

COMMISH

14 **Latestreport**
Cree-Naskapi Commission

ABUSE

19 **Violence**
Dr. Robert Harris

HOCKEY

21 **Miles Cowboy**
Plus: hockey updates

'FIEDS

23 **4 glorious pages**
A feast for the 'fied fan inu

ON THE COVER
Laverne Gervais Contois
Photo: Ernest Webb
Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rez notes
by Ndiamon

Ndiamon
5505 Boul. St Laurent
Suite 4203B
Montreal, Quebec
H2T 1S6
Canada, eh?

William Jefferson Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.
20500

October 14, 1998

Dear Bill,

You don't know me but that hardly matters because I feel I know you pretty well after all the attention you, Hillary and Chelsea have been getting after your great victory over the evil G.O.P. several years ago. My belated congratulations, friend.

Let me introduce myself. My real name is Neil Diamond (no relation) and I write a column for a powerful little magazine serving the Crees (a.k.a Iyiyuu, Eeyou, Eenou, etc.; we can't seem to agree on the spelling) of James Bay. You might have read about our nation in your newspapers down there during our battle to save several of our mighty rivers from destruction at the hands of Hydro-Quebec. Anyway, I have this column we like to call Rez Notes (Rez meaning, of course, reservation) which I've authored for over two long years now. Our award-winning and much-beloved magazine is known as The Nation (again, no relation). We publish the news, stories, poetry and just about everything else concerning the Native people of Canada. If I may add, in all humility, our journal is notorious for its exposes on corruption in all its forms in our territory and surrounding areas. As well as helping reverse a few moronic decisions made by our politicians. We have been called, if I may paraphrase, "the last bastion of democracy in Creeland." We've been called many things but that, I think, was the kindest and our all-time favorite. Enough about us though, I have several issues I need to address.

I like to think I know a little about politics, having run for office twice in my life. Once in high school and recently for the office of Grand Chief. I triumphed in high school and lost miserably two years ago. The voters either didn't take me seriously or just didn't get my platform. After your years in politics, I'm sure you know what I'm talking about and feel my pain. Actually that's not true. I've run for political office three times. The last time was in the federal elections. I was to run in my riding of Ungava in Northern Quebec but in circumstances eerily similar to yours I had to drop out of the race just days before the deadline. A lot of people, save for my would-be opponents, were crushed I think.

As you were, I'm sure, crushed when Congress voted to hold impeachment hearings against you. I hate to bring up the "M" word but as details of your ongoing saga were leaked by our enemies I thought of contacting you to offer my advice. When reporters started asking rude questions on whether you had sex with that Lewinsky woman or not my advice would have been for you to respond, "I did have sex with her but she didn't swallow." Seriously, I agree with your lovely wife about this whole mess being a vast right-wing conspiracy. The Republicans are Nazi scum and don't deserve to be in power. They will sell arms to Democracy's enemies in exchange for hostages to gain a few points in the polls. They will oppress the meek and put their champions in prison using false affidavits and committing perjury. Which brings us to another pressing issue that's been bugging me and my Native brothers: Leonard Peltier, a man locked up for a crime he didn't commit. I believe he's at Leavenworth but I could be mistaken. The Pope might be able to tell you though. Some advice, Bill. If you really want to show the American people what scum the Republicans are, pardon Mr. Peltier and call an inquiry about the whole case. Hell, it's the Republicans who wiped their behinds with your Bill of Rights and put him there. The American people will love you for it. But I'm not telling you anything you don't already know, am I? You're the pro.

A humourous aside from my colleague Mr. Nicholls (no relation), who also says hi: "It was so cold the other day I actually saw a lawyer with his hands in his own pockets." As I'm sure they like to say in Arkansas, hyuck, hyuck.

You and I don't have that much more time and space Bill so I'll cut to the chase. We would be forever in your debt if you could send us all information you or your office might have on the Roswell case of 1947. Thanks. Much appreciated in advance.

Enclosed please find the latest issue of our magazine and my business card should you wish to confide in anyone.

My e-mail address is: ndiamon@hotmail.com.

By the way, say hi to Carville. I loved his work in The War Room.

Sincerely,

N.

c.c. The good people of James Bay
c.c. Kenneth Starr

The Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications.

editorial board
Ernest Webb, William Nicholls, Alex Roslin

director of operations
Catherine Bainbridge

Iyiyuu Ayimuun editor
Brian Webb

photography
Neil Diamond

graphic design
Katerina Cizek , Sylvia Tennisco

director of finances
Linda Ludwick

director of marketing
Rhonda Sherwood

director of sales
Johanne Grenon
(Chibougamau 418.748.4229)

sales representative • Val d'Or
Yvon Boisvert 819.874.6977

layout & production
E. Webb, A. Roslin, W. Nicholls, N. Diamond

administrative assistant
Billy Jo Ratt

THANKS TO:
Air Creebec

Printed by Hebdolitho.
©All Rights Reserved
Publication Mail #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642

***THE NATION* IS A MEMBER OF:**
The James Bay Cree Communications Society
Circle of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers
Canadian Magazine Publishers Association
Quebec Community Newspaper Association
Canadian Community Newspaper Association
Les Hebdos Sélect du Québec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
5505 St-Laurent, #4203B, Montreal, QC. H2T 1S6

Please address correspondence to:
The Nation Production Office
5678 Park Ave.
P.O. Box 48036
Montreal, QC H2V 4S8

Editorial
Tel.: 514.272.3077 Fax: 514.278.9914

***The Nation* Head Office**
P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, QC, J0M 1E0

e-mail: beesum@beesum-communications.com
on the web: www.beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Individuals & Institutions: $45
ABROAD: Individuals: $70 U.S.
ABROAD: Institutions: $85 U.S.

Payable to Beesum Communications

Nation

Shut down SDBJ, says Grand Chief

But Cree unity elusive at commission hearing

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come has called on Quebec to shut down the James Bay Development Corporation and other provincial entities operating in the Cree territory.

He made the comments at the October 6 hearing of the National Assembly's Commission on Development of the Territory, in Quebec City.

The Grand Chief's point of view didn't seem to be wholly shared by two Cree chiefs who spoke at the same hearing. Billy Diamond and John Kitchen both advocated closer collaboration with Quebec's entities in the region, including Hydro-Quebec.

Coon Come told deputies Quebec has to start living up to its promises under past agreements. "First and foremost we demand that the governments of Quebec and Canada work with us to set up the institutional structures as described in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement in such a way as to make that effective.

"We do not and will never accept replacement of those fundamental rights by such imposed structures as the regional council or for example the James Bay Development Corporation (SDBJ)," said the Grand Chief.

"We would suggest that Quebec suspend the operations of these other entities," he said, naming the SDBJ and the Regional Development Council of Northern Quebec.

Anything else would be seen as "an attack on our rights," Coon Come said. He mentioned the high rate of unemployment in the Cree communities, saying it was as bad as 50 per cent. Coon Come pointed out that there were only five Crees working at Hydro-Quebec, only 0.25 per cent of forestry workers were Cree and in mining it was 5 per cent Cree workers.

Using these stats, Coon Come slams the SDBJ for decrying the prominent place the Crees play in regional development. Coon Come alleges the SDBJ has repeatedly made statements that non-Natives should continue their efforts to occupy the territory.

Next, Coon Come took on Hydro-Quebec's idea that Crees invest in a future hydro-electric project. While not saying no, he pointed out that the Crees don't have access to vast quantities of capital. He said the solution may be to recognize the Cree right to develop resources and give Crees a firm purchasing commitment by Hydro-Quebec, which would give Crees the ability to raise capital.

Coon Come also touched on many other issues like economic development, training, revenue-sharing and housing. "We are not begging, or even asking, for access to our lands and resources. It is others who have taken and are continuing to take steps to colonize or dispossess us. This cannot continue."

Chief Billy Diamond, the head provincial negotiator for the Crees, called for a renewed partnership and creative co-existence between Crees and the government and peoples of Quebec. He praised the decision by the gov-

by William Nicholls

continued on page 9

Did Quebec threaten to cut off funds to Crees?

Did Quebec threaten to cut off funds to Crees if they didn't back off on the $600-million-plus forestry lawsuit?

Some Cree leaders say that's exactly what happened and that's why the chiefs agreed to back down at a Sept. 15 meeting. The court action remains on, but for six months it won't be "pursued vigorously."

Instead, Crees and Quebec will launch yet another series of negotiations on forestry.

The Natural Resources Ministry denies there were any threats, but admits the court action made things "difficult."

Asked if there were any threats, Shirley Bishop, spokeswoman for minister Guy Chevrette, said, "Not to my knowledge."

She added, "But certainly, if a case is in the courts, negotiations don't work. It's certain that if they choose to go to the courts, we will have to speak in the courts."

After years of waiting, Quebec finally agreed to a first instalment of $15 million last spring for projects promised way back in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

But the money still hasn't arrived and Cree communities were told to take out loans which Quebec would repay. Negotiations are under way over next year's funding and those are the talks that would have been derailed by the court action.

After some confusion about what the chiefs actually decided to do, the Grand Council issued a statement.

"Negotiations are preferable to the courts to resolve problems," it says. "The court challenges need not be pursued vigorously if there is progress in the forthcoming out-of-court negotiations."

Crees also will not seek an injunction to stop forestry activities in Iyiyuuschii. Crees will pursue the talks with the government until March 31, 1999, when they will decide again what to do. The talks will discuss protection of the Cree way of life, revenue-sharing, a moratorium on new cutting areas, forestry allotments for the Crees and other issues.

-BY NATION STAFF

Our economic future

Letter to *The Nation*.

I read Mr. Roderick Pachano's comments in a recent edition of *The Nation* ("Cree Co. $32M in the red," Sept. 25, 1998). Mr. Pachano seems to believe that Cree Construction is being hurt by those Cree communities who have chosen to undertake construction in their own communities. I find his comments to be both dated and somewhat disturbing.

The circumstances of the past have made it such that the members of the Cree Nation have often seen development in our region done at our expense with little, if any, benefit to the residents. The situation has not been much different for other First Nations. Despite certain circumstances, some companies have emerged from our communities -- and Cree Construction is such a company and must be recognized as such.

However, such companies by themselves will not eradicate high unemployment in our communities, nor will they correct the lack of Crees in upper management positions in too many companies in the region.

Our society, just as others, is evolving rapidly -- often faster than many of us would like. We must adapt to this pace or we will, once again, be relegated to employees of external companies rather than partners and "deciders" in the development of our land.

In order to not only survive, but to prosper as a society, we must be able to develop in an environment that encourages us to be our best. Those Cree communities who have chosen to carry out the work in their communities are doing just this. They, along with local entrepreneurs, should be applauded and encouraged for their efforts. It is only good business sense that a contract be awarded to the entrepreneur able to do the work at a good price and that will benefit the local community best (i.e. local hiring). If we are to become self-sufficient, we must understand and apply this.

Such a practice only benefits the future of the Cree Nation. If some do not succeed, others will learn from their mistakes and will pave the way for us to occupy our rightful place in the future of our region. Failure to do so only leaves us vulnerable to external factors (read: the federal and provincial governments), making us continually dependent and thus preventing us from attaining our full potential.

If Cree Construction, as any other Cree company, wishes to obtain contracts, let it be because they have the best efforts that meet the established criteria and not because we have a moral obligation as Crees to give them contracts. The problem with moral obligations, as used by companies, is that they are too often used to benefit only a select few. If Cree Construction cannot prosper in such an environment, or for that matter, any other company, let others take the torch. Our future depends on it.

Andy Baribeau
Mistissini

A Pearl to be Discovered

ᑲ ᒥᑭᐅᒪᓂᑭᑭᓄᐦ ᑲᑲᐦ ᐊ ᓴᑭᒪᓂᑭᑭᓄᐦ

Located downtown Montreal, Hotel du Fort offers the comfort of home in 127 tastefully appointed guest rooms and suites all featuring kitchenette convenience.
For information on discounted rates and reservations please call **1-800-565-6333. Reserve your room today!**

ᒪᓂᑕ ᐊ ᐃᐢᑎᓂᐢ ᑕᐅᐢᑎᐢᐊᐅᐢ ᒪᐢᑎᓇᔭᐢ, ᒍᔭᐦ ᐊ ᐃᔑᒥᔭᐢᒍᐢᐃᐢᐃᐅᐦ ᑭᐦ ᐃᑕᓂᐢᑕᓂᐢ ᑐ ᓵᐢ ᓂᐊᑎᐅᑭᒥᐦ. 127 ᐃᐢᑎᐢᐢ ᒪᒧ ᓂᐊᑎᐅᑭᒥᐢᐢ ᑭᔭ ᒥᓂᐊ ᑎᓂᐢ ᑲ ᐊᐱᔭᔑᐢᑎᒪᒪᑲ ᑲᑲᐦ ᐅᐢᑎ ᐊ ᓀᓂᑐᑭᑎᒪᒪᑲ ᑭᔭ ᒪᐢᑎᑎᓂᒍᔭᐦ ᑭᔭ ᒪᐦᑲ ᐊᐅᑎᐢᑎᒪᒪᒍᔭᐦ, ᒪᐅᑕ ᐃᔑᒥᐦᑕᐢᑕᐢ **1 800 565 6333.** ᐊᓀᐢ ᑲ ᓂᑐᐊᔭᐢᑎᒥᐢ ᑭᓂᐊᐅᑭᒥᐦ.

HÔTEL DU FORT

1390, rue du Fort - Montreal - Quebec - H3H 2R7
Internet: www.hoteldufort.com Email: reserve@hoteldufort.com

We wish all of our children of Mistissini a

SAFE and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

We are also asking the community to look out for our little Trick or Treaters.

From the Chief and Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini

"WE'RE COMING TO THE END OF EVERYTHING"

A year ago, Eloise Charet was living a peaceful existence in the mountains of British Columbia. Logging companies changed that life. Charet, 47, and her 12-year-old daughter joined others blocking a road in the forest to stop the loggers. Charet was arrested and promptly went on a hunger strike (she calls it a "fast") that lasted the whole seven weeks she spent in jail.

After that experience, Charet got so worried about the environment she decided to go for a walk. Across the country. She calls it her "walk for water." She collected samples of water from over 50 different lakes, rivers and ponds from Native and non-Native communities, which she brought along with her.

It took her five months to walk about 5,000 km between Victoria and Ottawa, and soon she may pass through Quebec.

"The right to life is the first sentence in the Charter of Rights," she says. "Pure water is life and they're taking it all. I thought this year, What could I do? I'll do the simplest thing I could think of, just walk for water."

When she got to Ottawa, she decided to put on a press conference to make her case. She and her supporters poured some of the water into champagne glasses for the journalists. The water in one glass was orange, in another, black. Another glass had little worms floating about. Some of the clear water was even more dangerous, filled with poisons invisible to the eye.

But not one journalist came. "After walking five months, what a reception," she says sadly. "I was really crying." She tried to go into Parliament to tell her story, but the Mounties escorted her out.

"I'm totally unsophisticated and I'm proud of it," she says, mustering a laugh. "I'm basically a step above a bag lady."

Today, she's camped out in a tent down the hill from Parliament at Victoria Island, where she's on another "fast" (only water) for a month. Some local Native people did a ceremony for her (she's not Native herself) and lit a sacred fire, which she is tending.

"In terms of the spirit, it has been very inspiring. In terms of the body," she pauses, "oh, it has been gruelling."

As Charet passed through Winnipeg she recalls meeting a Blackfoot man called Bear Grandfather who was walking across Canada in the other direction for the same cause, the environment. They talked and discovered that eagles had been following both of them the whole way through.

She is still a little in shock by the environmental destruction she saw. "My whole heart's twisted in feelings right now. I'm just devastated."

She saw kids with rashes on their skin after swimming in polluted water and entire families with severe illnesses she says were caused by pollution. She said Saskatchewan ("the country's breadbasket," as she puts it) has high levels of illnesses linked with use of herbicides at farms.

Charet remembers a Native Elder out West who came up to her and said, "Tell them in Ottawa our people are dying, our people are dying." The Elder died himself that night.

"There are no human rights left. It's only corporate rights," she says. "I'm concerned as a mother there will be nothing left. We're coming to the end of everything. What will wake us up?"

by Alex Roslin

Accident claims three lives outside Quévillon

People in all the Cree communities were shocked at the news that a vehicle carrying some young people from Chisasibi was involved in a terrible accident.

The accident, which occurred on Monday, Oct. 12, on Route 113 outside Lebel-sur-Quévillon, claimed the lives of Theodore Sam, 16, and Patrick Neacappo, 15. A third passenger, Frederick Sam, 18, succumbed to his injuries two days after the accident, according to a police statement.

Four other passengers in the Suburban were gravely injured, all aged between 16 and 21, and two suffered minor injuries, aged 17 and 28.

The young people were members of the Chisasibi Warriors basketball team and were going home after a tournament in Mistissini. The accident happened at around 3:30 p.m.

The injured were first taken to the Centre de santé Lebel for treatment, and later to the Centre hospitalier Hôtel-Dieu d'Amos.

Quévillon municipal police are investigating the exact causes of the accident. They said in a statement it was probably the result of a tire blowout that caused the vehicle to lose control.

Waswanipi no longer lawless, says band mgr.

Band manager Samuel Gull was happy to hear the Grand Council of the Crees had met with the government and had made a few breakthroughs in policing.

Waswanipi police had been laid off since October 9 after the local Band Council decided to suspend police services when council members noticed there was a $210,000 overdraft.

No police funds were received from Quebec this year. The council said policing services would be suspended until Crees have a firm commitment from Quebec.

Gull said Waswanipi wasn't the only one feeling the pressure. "It's the same across the board for all nine Cree communities. No one has gotten funding," he said.

Gull said police would be returning to work on October 15 as a result of the Grand Council's agreement-in-principle with Quebec on police.

4.00%
Year 1

CANADA SAVINGS BOND
Series 54.
Cashable any time.

4.50% Year 1 **4.75%** Year 2 **5.00%** Year 3

CANADA PREMIUM BOND
Series 3. Cashable once a year.
Annual compound rate of 4.75% if held for 3 years.

NOW FEELING SECURE COMES WITH MORE CHOICES AND MORE OPTIONS

New Canada Savings Bonds are perfect for the secure part of your financial plan. This year we are introducing the Canada Premium Bond, a bond that offers a higher rate of return than the Canada Savings Bond while allowing you to cash in once a year on the anniversary date. The original Canada Savings Bond is as flexible as ever and cashable any time. You may purchase your bonds for as little as $100.

Both the original Canada Savings Bond and the new Canada Premium Bond are 100% guaranteed by the Government of Canada and have no fees of any kind.

And this year you'll have the option of having either bond registered in a no fee RRSP or RRIF. New Canada Savings Bonds. This year with more choices and more options than ever before.

Series 54 and 3 on sale now until November 1 wherever you bank or invest.

NEW CANADA SAVINGS BONDS
YOU'RE ON SOLID GROUND.

Canada

For more information call **1-800-575-5151** or visit our website at www.cis-pec.gc.ca

From Hydro with love

Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Hydro-Quebec's purchase of electricity from private producers
by the Government of Quebec
Montreal, 1997

Every government wants to spread a little money... er, joy to its good friends and party contributors. And the Liberals of Robert Bourassa were no different. This is the inside story of how a little scheme got cooked up that would make some powerful people rich and haunt Hydro-Quebec for years.

The Liberals forced Hydro-Quebec to announce a truly wacky plan. Hydro would buy energy from private power producers (mostly small dams) at almost twice the going U.S. rate, and then resell the power at a big loss in the U.S. Smart!

For Hydro and Quebecers, it meant massive losses. For a small group of private dam owners, it was like winning the jackpot.

Soon enough, allegations emerged about the program: possible links to the Hell's Angels and drug-money laundering, high-level Hydro officials profiting from the program, Liberal patronage.

In 1995, newly elected Parti Québécois premier Jacques Parizeau appointed a commission to look into the charges.

The commission found the program wasn't needed because both Quebec and the U.S. were swimming in power. The program will cost Hydro-Quebec nearly one billion dollars over 20 years.

Especially sensational was evidence about Montreal dam owner and Liberal contributor Peter Kuczer, who owned a dam in the Algonquin community of Winneway.

Kuczer was arrested in Miami in 1994 after he allegedly agreed to launder $11 million in drug proceeds through his Quebec dam operation. Kuczer made a plea bargain with U.S. authorities and the charge was reduced to tax evasion.

In the end, the commission dismissed the most serious allegations and everyone went back to sleep. As for the Algonquins, they were the first ones to call for the inquiry, but their attempts to buy the dam have gotten nowhere. Quebec seems to prefer the likes of Kuczer. ***BY ALEX ROSLIN***

NEIL DIAMOND

The Christian Peacemaker Corps and supporters staged this protest along Highway 401 outside Kitchener, Ont., to mark the 506th anniversary of "Columbus being found in the Caribbean," to honour Dudley George and to call for a public inquiry into his shooting-death by the police at Ipperwash Park. Neil was on the scene to snap a shot.

Crees need alliances with Radisson and Matagami, says Chief Billy Diamond

continued from page 5

ernment to finally build a road to Waskaganish. Diamond said the highway was "the road to opportunity" for Waskaganish. Diamond also said as a chief he has to find 450 new jobs just in his community alone and the road will help.

Diamond added that mini-dams are "one of my favourite topics." He said building one would be better than continuing to burn diesel at $0.59 per kWh. He cited the harming of the environment and said Waskaganish is willing to learn the technology to build and operate a low-impact mini-dam. "We are in favour of run-of-the-river projects," stated Diamond.

After talking about tourism and its potential for the Crees, he gave members of the panel copies of the Waskaganish tourism brochure, saying Crees were doing their share to promote Quebec.

He also proposed that Crees should make "strategic alliances" with Radisson and Matagami. "They (alliances) will soon give greater strength and commitment to our potential financial partners such as Hydro-Quebec and forestry and mining companies."

Diamond went on to naysay Coon Come's assertion that the SDBJ is unacceptable for the Crees. "There is no reason why the SDBJ, for instance, cannot over time become a Cree development corporation."

Diamond then echoed some of Coon Come's words, saying the Crees aren't afraid of development but demand participation. Diamond reassured Quebec that Waskaganish wasn't looking for a new road just to block it. This raised a few laughs.

"I think the minister will be happy to hear that," said one of the deputies.

Chief John Kitchen also addressed the commission, but not as chief of Waswanipi. He was representing the Northern Quebec Solidarity Fund, set up by the Quebec Federation of Labour and the Quebec government.

The Solidarity Fund is supposed to give grants to help Native and non-Native businesses. But in its year and a half of existence, it hasn't given any grants to Native businesses yet, Kitchen admitted. Still, he saw the fund as a good example of the "partnerships" needed in the North.

Instead of abolishing the SDBJ, Kitchen seems to favour reforming it to give Native people more of a say in its operations.

Asked if Crees and Hydro-Quebec should make a partnership, Kitchen said the potential is there.

"There are partnerships between the Crees, Inuit and Hydro-Quebec that can be developed."

LAVERNE GERVAIS CONTOIS

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY...

Interview by Ernest Webb

I first met Laverne Gervais Contois at the Aboriginal Women of Montreal's open house. As the president of the local chapter of the Quebec Native Women's Association and a relapse prevention worker for Waseskun House, I knew I wanted to interview her when I met her. It was just a question of when.

I phoned her up and left a message. The following week she called back and said she had just arrived from a road trip and would call back to arrange a rendezvous. More phone calls and messages later and with deadline looming, we finally had our rendezvous set but only after she broke from her meeting and that was around 10 p.m. Oh well, another late production night, I thought. So what else is new? Laverne dropped by our offices and began telling me about herself...

Laverne Gervais Contois: I always tell people I grew up in the Winnipeg Reserve and now I live in the Montreal Reserve. I never grew up in a community. I have three grandparents who grew up in the communities. My grandfather Star is from Peguis where my membership is. My grandmother Daniels is from the Long Plains reserve. My grandfather Fontaine is from Fort Alexander. I think I visited a community twice when I was younger.

Ernest Webb: With its large Native population does Winnipeg have its unique Native culture?

You have to consider my age and generation. Those who lived with the devastation, they were not really trying to identify with their own culture. I believe I'm from that generation, where I hated brown eyes. I wasn't really comfortable with who I was. In Winnipeg living with the stereotypes, I think back then it was extremely racist... Redneck country. I felt that I didn't want to associate myself with Native people, even though I lived with a group where Native people lived. We worked very hard not to identify ourselves as Native. We had hard core issues to deal with. My generation, myself, I've had some hard core issues to deal with.

In terms of the residential schools and all that... assimilation?

My father himself was brought up in an orphanage where he lived with nuns. My mother had died; of course we lived at my grandparents' where there was a lot of drugs and alcohol that ripped up the family. I remember a time when my grandfather and uncles would go out and build canoes by hand. I watched them. As soon as the drugs and alcohol took over, there was nothing to be proud of. I grew up in a time where it was like the best thing for survival was to assimilate.

As a little girl what did you want to be when you grew up?

OK... I wanted to be a policewoman and I did follow up when I was in grade 11. I went to the police station and asked how to apply for a position in the police force. But they had height standards where you had to be at least 5'7". There was no way I was going to be 5'7". So I was discouraged, I wasn't encouraged to continue and become something like a policewoman. So I felt it was best to try and find a job and get on with trying to survive in that milieu. Back then it was difficult. It was hard to be Indian, it was hard to be Native, because you had the stereotypical ideas come at you, like the drunken Indians. We lived in the Logan and Main area. It was a hard core place to live at that time.

Did you see the conditions there which spawned the Native gangs there?

I can see and reflect on why there are gangs, because there is no pride in you as a Native human being. You weren't brought up with that pride. But I never seen the gangs. I was trying very hard to be away from there... And... But I was part of a gang... to think about it. I was part of a group; we called ourselves "the motorcycle club." We went around telling people we were a motorcycle club, which was a distinction between a gang. We got together to go on road rides. We weren't there to create violence and be violent with another gang. Yeah! Wow! (laughter)

So it was a sense of belonging...?

It was a sense of belonging with a group of people who had motorcycles...

So you rode a motorcycle?

Yes... Women weren't supposed to do that back then. So it's true... I never thought I belonged in a gang I always thought it was a club. We went camping and stuff.

Who was your biggest influence?

My biggest influence was Mr. Art Solo-.non back in '84. Also my aunt Ann who was a social worker who believed in the goodness of people and was very proud of who she was. My mother died when I was young; my grandmother played a very big influence in what I'm doing today. She was very stoic. She was a very caring, gentle human being. I saw her get beat up. But she never said anything. I just thought she didn't care, but as I get older I realize that is a part of what they had to live through.

Do you think it's different now?

Not much different, there's a difference because Native people now are a little more organized; there's a real strong sense of pride now. I remember kids back then whose eyes were dull. I come across that once in a while. But I see lots of children with brightness in their eyes. You can see it through their eyes, "a sense of who I am, I like who I am." There's some changes but we still have a long way to go.

So you're optimistic?

Yes, very optimistic. It took me a time to get that way. Once I started working on my own personal issues, which was incest. So I've worked on my healing journey of sexual abuse issues. Family break-up has a strong impact on anybody. You see the devastation from the drugs and alcohol. I watched it. My grandfather's house was very happy when they were building canoes and they would get together and play the fiddle and dancing as a family unit and inviting people to part take in that kind of time. And then watching my grandmother and grandfather getting eaten up by drugs and alcohol. There is a time where you just kind of quit inside. Something is dead inside. But once you start getting in touch with your own issues and when you take responsibility for what happened...

Is there a snowball effect in the healing process?

There is a snowballing effect. When you realize you have your rights. I remember one of my issues when I was growing up was I felt I didn't have any human rights. I didn't have any rights. I didn't have the right to say no to anything. When I started to deal with the fact that, hey, I'm a human being and I have human rights, a light went on and it was, like, wow. I have every right to say no or to do what I please with reason. What I want to do is, yes, I have rights and I enjoy this and I have every right to enjoy...

Ride your motorcycle...

Yes, ride my motorcycle. When you talk about these issues it just snowballs. But then you get tired and stuck in it. But there is a progression. I believe that people are never healed, there is a constant healing going on...

> "...survival was to assimilate."

Is it just in terms of degrees?

Yeah, degrees of healing.

Degrees of devastation?

Depending on the degrees of devastation that you're going through and when you get in touch with those feelings. It's like you're feeling broken-hearted. Like you don't count at all. And you feel those feelings many times until you realize that this devastation and broken-heartedness happened but it doesn't have to happen again. You take a responsibility for not allowing it to happen again.

So do you think that people are starting to communicate?

...Yes.

For instance, sometimes it's hard for men to communicate.

Yeah, I have to believe there is a change in there. I have to believe as a mother, as a sister, a niece, granddaughter, that men do feel, but they don't express their feelings and if they do they express it differently. There is that mechanism to react. Sometimes you don't realize you're reacting, sometimes you have to take a breath and say, What the hell is happening here; why are we fighting? When we are saying the same thing.

When did you move from Winnipeg?

1983-84. My ex-husband was transferred out here by CN. So we accepted the transfer to Montreal. I was here three years before I realized there was a Native community in an urban area. When I was in Winnipeg I was oblivious to the Native community. Because we were very much into getting a job, getting a house, getting kids to school.

The last I heard was there were 44,000 Natives living in Montreal. And people keep saying, well, where are they?

It's true they are there, but where do they get the stats? Winnipeg is a smaller area with 600 or 800,000 people. In Montreal there's about 2 to 3 million people. In Winnipeg I felt more visibility. As in Montreal I fit in with the other ethnic groups.

We just blend in with the Latin community.

Yeah... even the Japanese.

When did you start at Waseskun house?

Actually I just started a couple of weeks ago. I'm officially a full-time employee. I was with Aboriginal Women of Montreal in 1993. Before that I was with the Friendship Centre. I was president of the Friendship Centre from 1990 to 1994. Around that time I was going through a divorce, so I decided to withdraw and go to school. I went to Concordia and took applied social science with a specialization and a minor in psychology. I just finished my BA. this May. In the meantime while I was going to school, Quebec Native Women contacted me and asked me to organize the Annual General Meeting for the local. At

Cont'd on Page 12

Cont'd from page 11

that time it was inactive. I got a group of women together; there were five of us. So we called all the membership in Montreal and told them about the A.G.M. But no one showed. So we had five of us who decided to take on the interim positions of president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary and we had one member. The reason why we took it on, even though we were full-time students, was that the Quebec Native Women Association's was saying if we didn't have an urban A.G.M. they would lose that funding for that A.G.M. There's the local and then there's the Urban General Council which sits on the Quebec Native Women's Board. The Urban General Council represents Montreal, Quebec City and Hull, so they sit on the board for Quebec Native Women to represent Native women in the urban community.

Why is it so hard to get Native people together in Montreal?

My question exactly. When we started Beverly Sabourin, Caroline Tate and my daughter Laverne, Crystal Hooper, Kara Sampson and myself, when we got together we asked ourselves, "what is it that Native women need to get together and get involved?" That was a big question. I think Native women are tired of the healing circle. Even though we want it. But there has to be more to life than just healing...

...Getting on?

So we decided in order to recruit Native women what we needed to do was have activities, fun activities. So we're able to get together and have people come in through funding and staff the local. We have a fun activity fun night, a talent show. This is what Native women want.

More of a social scene?

A social aspect of things, so that's what we did. Let's recruit them but let them know that it could be fun, getting together.

It astounds me with the population versus what there is in terms of organization... There's no real scene besides the typical Indian bars.

(Laughter) Yeah, that's the biggest thing. There's the student association but besides that... They want to be there for education issues but there's also family issues. And there's actually no voice for urban Aboriginal women. There's no political voice for them except Quebec Native Women. The urban area was almost inactive, Hull is pretty active. We're finally starting to get some activity in Montreal but a political voice is not really there for us. Quebec Native Women is starting to look at us with the same issues but different environment. So they're starting to say, yes, there is a difference but there is the sameness about our issues. There isn't a political voice somewhere for us.

Is there, for lack of a better word, a political revolution going on?

Urban Aboriginal issues is a hot potato, there is something happening. But there isn't enough representation for Aboriginal women in the urban area. Out of sight, out of mind. There's no need to deal with it because no one's there to represent it. But at the same time there is something happening in the urban area, 44,000 Native people in the Montreal area...

That's a sizeable voting block...

Sure. So how come nothing's happening?

For some people there may be a conflict of being involved with mainstream politics.

Jurisdiction... That's one of our difficulties. If you look in the Montreal urban area there are 12 different nations coming down to Montreal. Plus the fact I myself am not from Quebec. I've met a few Navajo, they're here. It's difficult because of the language barrier. There are a few things we can identify as barriers. One is how

Montreal is spread out, some are out in Dorval, some in Lachine, West Island. it's hard to get people together who are so spread out. But they're there.

Do you think there might be a need for something beyond an interest group?

We need some specific services offered by Aboriginal women to Aboriginal women. We have to have that right now. We're falling through the cracks because of the language barrier, education and poverty. A lot of Native women don't want to go outside. They feeling totally isolated and there isn't another person around. I know of one woman who is from Labrador. She was here with her six children and she was pregnant again. With no family support here she felt totally alone and there is no way she can maintain her culture. But she can't afford to go back.

We have two kids and it's hard enough without the extended family structure. I can only imagine with six especially when you're alone.

We have people coming to us concerning women who are on the street and feel that isolation and don't want to go for help. They feel "why bother?"

How is that as an issue, Native women on the street?

It is an issue. It is a marginalized issue because we aren't organized to do what we need to do to acquire the funds to do something about it. There are women who are on the street and are HIV-positive and who are totally underground. That issue has been brought to our attention. We're not there yet. We're only in the recruiting stage. Getting the woman together.

Just building the circle...

We're just building the circle to say, "Hey we're here, let's work together."

Which brings us to the Urban Aboriginal Women's Wellness Resource Centre. That's a goal you're working on?

Yes, we targeted the year 2000. We're really hoping we can get solid funding. We have a group of women who are very strong and we realize the needs and services that should be there. But we're only a small group of women yet. We have one woman, Caroline Tait, a Métis from Saskatchewan who's doing her Ph.D., who's been doing a lot of the writing of proposals and the working copy. And we had Beverly Sabourin who is a full-time student who was at McGill but got transferred away. So we have women who are working on their masters or Ph.D's and working at the same time for Quebec Native Women who are trying to say let's do something.

What are your biggest needs, besides funding?

Besides funding our biggest need now is the resources getting women together. Getting and retaining their interest and saying, yes, we're there to support you. But in that support we have to respect where we're all coming from. We're at different levels. We have women coming to us who are in need of counseling and babysitting services. And some advocacy and referral work. And the Native Friendship Centre, which is an excellent organization. There isn't a safe place for aboriginal women. When they go to the Friendship Centre they want to be with other Aboriginal people but there are times when they come across their perpetrators. They feel like there's no safe place for them. That's what AWM hopes to do, provide a safe place for these women. To have a sense of empowering each other to say, "Hey, I have support here, I can have aunties and uncles for my children." That's our goal and dream.

A family.

A family in a sense and also strong women who can learn from one another, exchange their culture. Native cultures are similar but there's some distinctness in the way things are done. If they can have that exchange, more growth to us. More pride for our culture, our first nationness.

Is there enough of a link between the rural and the urban areas?

I've seen that link come together through the Quebec Native Women.

What's coming up these days?

There's a young Inuit woman who's starting an Inuit women AA Group. We have fun night coming up, Mary's doing that. Right now we're hoping for support from the First Nations community and that we'll have more women coming to us who want to participate in any activities and some of the work we have to do.

Is there any place for men within that?

We do have a man, Delbert Sampson, giving a caregiver circle, he comes in once a month. There's a place for men, why not? We're all mothers, I have a son.

Do you have a message for the people?

Yes, as an Aboriginal urban woman, there are Aboriginal women out there from the different communities but for some reason they're forgotten. Urban

Cont'd on page 22

STATUS QUO NOT ACCEPTABLE

Reports Cree-Naskapi Commission

By William Nicholls

The Cree-Naskapi Commission is putting on a new face in this year's report to the federal government. The report starts off talking about the limited resources that the commission has had to deal with. Perhaps one of the most serious for the Crees is the inability to do detailed follow-ups to commission decisions.

Later, the meat of the report deals with the inadequacies of the governments when dealing with First Nations. The commission says government bureaucrats don't understand or agree with the government's directions, don't know the difference between obligations and funding priorities, and that senior officials are unaware of recent decisions by the Supreme Court of Canada. This latest report says the government bureaucracy is limited to its own views and lacks of consideration of other perspectives. As a result, the commission says the "credibility of ministerial undertakings when dealing with First Nations is minimal."

In a daring move, the commission says three things are needed: a Court of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights since this area of law will be active and in transition for the next 10 to 20 years; a Treaty Implementation Secretariat to ensure that obligations and treaties are implemented and enforced; and a Treaty Implementation Act to oversee financial aspects of treaties as well as incorporating some of the new court decisions in a way that would allow a more disciplined and open process in negotiations.

The commission touched on many other issues and below are excerpts from an interview with the three Cree-Naskapi Commissioners: chairman Richard Saunders, commissioners Philip Awashish and Robert Kanatewat.

The Nation: You've talked about the lack of just about everything in your report. Is fixing this going to be a priority for the commission?

Richard Saunders: Well, these are certainly problems that will have to be solved. In order to do our jobs properly we have to be able to be accountable to the communities, to get adequate input from the communities, we have to have proper research, proper legal advice. Those things have to be done if you expect us to do our job properly.

Later on in the report you talk about how the bureaucratic structure doesn't see fulfilling these types of obligations with adequate funding. Wouldn't you have to educate first?

Saunders: I think educating bureaucrats is certainly a challenge. We had a meeting with the Minister (of Indian Affairs) and we raised the issue of adequate funding. (Grand Chief) Matthew Coon Come attended the meeting and he raised it also. We'll have to see what happens.

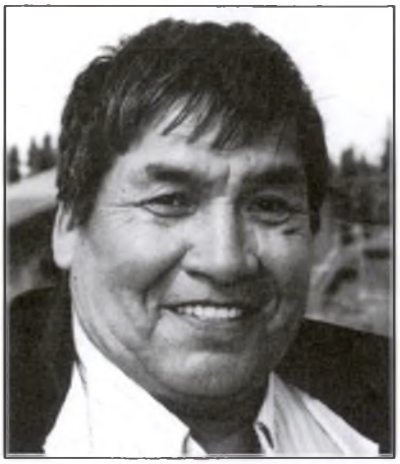
You did mention there was a new attitude from the top down, starting with Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart. Do you feel this will help in making changes?

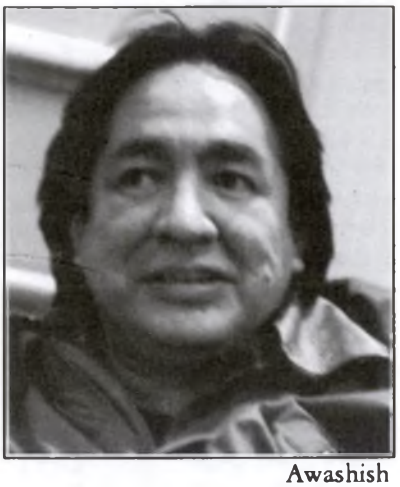
Saunders: The minister has good intentions but she isn't the first one. If she is going to make changes at a practical level such as implementing the outstanding obligations under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement; if she is going to translate the good intentions into anything practical — then she is going to have to be minister for a while. Not the revolving door where we see a new minister every couple of years. She'll need proper resources because you can't fulfill your obligations if you haven't got the money. And she's going to have to change the attitudes of her bureaucrats from stonewalling the Cree, Naskapi and other First Nations across the country to one of cooperation and fulfillment of obligations. That's a big challenge. I'm not sure that's going to happen. We'll have to wait and see.

Philip Awashish: The report is directed to the government. What we have to say may not be news to the Crees or the Grand Council, but it will certainly be to the Department of Indian Affairs. We hope the report will stimulate discussions. We don't want the report to simply be tabled in the House of Commons and then forgotten as the first five reports were. We feel the present government has to evolve along with the present realities. As you know the Cree-Naskapi Act hasn't been amended despite the recommendations of the commission in its first five reports.

Our mandate has evolved over the years. The communities have interpreted our mandate to be broad themselves. They consider us a place where they can voice their concerns on the implementation of the JBNQA and other agreements, for example. People do not restrict themselves to local government problems or the Cree-Naskapi Act. This would be a chance for the federal government to provide a forum where people could talk about the implementation of agreements and acts. We feel the commission has gone a little way in achieving that objective.

The adequate funding of the commission is a big problem. In the act it is implicit that the minister is responsible for implementing the act and, as the commission, we report on the implementation of that act. We are concerned that the department


Kanatewat


Awashish

Saunders

not only continues to fund us but that we receive sufficient funding so we can work effectively. In order to work effectively it's clear the role and mandates of the commission need to be reviewed and substantially modified so we can provide an effective role in the evolution of Cree government.

As an advisory body we cannot make binding recommendations. We feel the government should act on the recommendations and simply not neglect them.

When you talk about a modified role for the commission, would we be talking about not only mediation but giving the commission more teeth?

Awashish: Well, that would be the primary objective, the commission having more teeth, as they say. It's evident it has to go beyond being an advisory body. The Cree and the Naskapi want to be able to influence policy at the government levels. Policies respecting the evolution of local government.

Robert Kanatewat: One of the things you mentioned from the start was the change. The fact is that before, in the previous reports where we got some criticism from different parties, we never did any follow-up. With our sixth report we felt something had to be done. Either from us or from the Crees' side or from the government side. More or less it was us who got pointed out to do something from our end.

Most of the time, Native people as a whole are not aware of the commission and what its functions are. This is part of why you seen a change a style for the commission.

A lot of people just ignored the previous reports after they made their comments and then put them on the self. We thought we would be able to do something and do follow-ups. There are concerns that the quorums are too high for some of these communities. This and other things are ignored in the reports every time. A lot of these things could be resolved. The minister seemed to see that. We also said they didn't have to wait to make amendments to the Cree-Naskapi Act while the Indian Act was being amended.

Saunders: Let me add one thing while we're still on the topic of role expansion. Over the past 12 years we've said that we'll only investigate things under the act. The communities have saying a lot of the things don't rise directly out of the act, but they arise more out of the JBNQA and the Eastern James Bay Agreement. We commissioners have had a look at the act line by line in some detail again to see if there's a bit more room in the mandate, and we've concluded there's some for a more active role.

As an example, one part says the commission shall investigate any representation given to it relating to the implementation of the act, including representations relating to the exercise or non-exercise of a power under the act and the performance or non-performance of a duty. That means the whole Act so we went back to Section 21.J, which outlines the objects of the Band. It says the object of the Band is too exercise the powers and carry out the duties conferred or imposed on the Band by any Act of Parliament or any regulations made thereunder and by the agreements.

So even within the legislation, even if you take a narrow view, there's some room for dealing with issues coming out of the agreements themselves. If a Band under the agreement has certain powers and duties but they've never been funded to do those things that's an issue we could consider because the objects as defined in the act are not being carried out. This is expansion of a sort but it doesn't mean that amendments are not needed. Changes are needed.

In your proposed expanded role you're looking at making the commission a quasi-judicial body with the proper complaint procedures. Would this include being able to fine the Feds or the Bands for not complying with the act?

Saunders: I don't think so. It would be the powers statutory tribunals have requiring people, including the government, to provide information they may be reluctant to provide, to require people to answer questions relating to their responsibilities. Other commissions have made binding decisions, which can be appealed. This would be helpful.

What if the federal government just chose to ignore a binding decision?

Saunders: Then the First Nations could take the government to court and seek to have it enforced, but that wouldn't be our responsibility. I would like to say the three of us have not discussed this in this level of detail. I'm just fantasizing at the moment.

The commission talks about three steps that have to be taken. The creation of a Treaty Implementation Secretariat, a Treaty Implementation Act, and a Court of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. These are three very interesting concepts. How did the minister receive them?

Saunders: When we met with the Minister, for the most part the discussion was about funding the commission and whether

we would be able to survive and do our work for the next six months. At this point we haven't talked about the bulk of the report. We certainly hope to meet with her and some of her senior officials later if we're still around and functioning. We hope to discuss it at the community level with the Cree and Naskapi if we have the resources to do so also. We can't just make a bunch of recommendations and then go off home and not be accountable in any way for what we're saying. We need to tell the minister what we mean.

Kanatewat: After a number of years we know what we're talking about when we ask for these things.

Awashish: Robert mentioned the experience of the last 20 years. You are looking at implementation problems of these agreements. One begins to look at how the Cree and Naskapi people have responded to the government's failure to respect obligations under these agreements. As a last resort First Nations have had to use litigation. There is a gap between the Cree-Naskapi and federal government. They disagree on implementing the acts and agreements. There have to be certain options available to the Cree-Naskapi communities in seeing that these agreements are being implemented properly and in the spirit in which they were made. The fact is the present bureaucracies sent up by the government seem to circumvent the process, according to the Cree and Naskapi people we have met. When I say circumvent I mean to drag on discussions so there is no resolution in sight. We stress the fact that we are looking at an independent secretariat, separate from the government or at least Indian Affairs.

The minister is also aware the department isn't the only recipient of our report.

The commission is very critical of the bureaucracy and bureaucrats?

Saunders: One of the problems is government is set up to consider policy options. It's set up to consider expenditure priorities. It's set up to exercise discretion because they're elected and run by people who work for them. They feel they have the discretion to decide on policy and spending. That's fine for most areas of government but once you enter into a land-claims settlement, agreements, treaties, then implementing that is no longer a matter of making choices, exercising discretion or doing what you what to do. It's a matter of carrying out your lawful obligations. But the difficulty is when you have a bunch of departments whose primary duty is making discretionary choices, they tend to treat lawful obligations as discretionary when they're not. That's the problem as we see it.

In terms of the bureaucrats themselves, the minister has made some fairly decent intentions in her agenda and policy statements. That's all good stuff. The problem is the bureaucrats know ministers come

CARREFOUR
DU NORD-OUEST
IN VAL-D'OR
Welcomes you to the biggest shopping center in Abitibi-Témiscamingue.
43 stores
To serve you better:
Henri Primeau General Director
Lorraine Le Blanc Marketing Director
(819) 874-5593
METRO GRENIER Hart Zellers

CRAFT SUPPLIES
•Pearls •Ribbons •Mirrors •Ivy's •Wreaths •Garlands •Raffia •Planters •Cherubs •Tulle •Silk Roses •Bamboo Baskets
•Ruffled Laces •Flat Laces •Silk Flowers •Glue Guns •Glue Sticks •Feather Birds •Mushroom Birds •Spanish Moss •Plush Bears •Styrofoam Shapes •Ribbon Roses
•Craft Kits •Christmas Crafts •Abaca Angels •Abaca Hearts •Abaca Decors •Rosebuds •Straw Hats •Bird Cages •Wedding Supplies •Bark Baskets •Jingle Bells •Wired Ribbons
Canada's Best Price and Selection
Free 80 Page Catalogue
To receive a free copy, send in your name and address to:
Crysbi Crafts
R.R. #3 • High River • Alberta • T1V 1N3

and then they go. They know the financial situation changes from month to month, year to year. They know ministers lose interest and they also have their own agenda, which is basically doing things the way they have always done them. That's human nature. A lot of them are not in tune with what's going on. They take an attitude of middle-management-level stonewalling, saying this is our position, take it or leave it. Something as serious as dealing with the transfer of land. That issue has been on the table for years and years. It's absurd and ridiculous that it hasn't been solved.

If you're not going to repeat the mistakes of the past and you're going to work in partnership, it's time to do the things that need to be done at a practical level. It's really good for the minister to have those intentions but does that mean the bureaucrats are going to get busy and do their work on land transfers? Does it mean they're going to deal with issues like revenue-sharing or ignore them? What does it mean in practical terms? We feel it doesn't mean a heck of a lot just yet. We want to see the minister's attitude repeated at all levels. We don't see it yet.

I would like to touch on a comment you made a while ago about you maybe not being around in six months. Does this concern funding?

Saunders: We'll be around. The question is whether we'll be able to meet and respond to requests from the communities, do any work or basically doing nothing until the next fiscal year. We've asked the minister to provide funding so we can do the work but if we don't get it we won't be doing much for the next six months. We asked for $150,000 for the remaining six months. It's kind of the bottom-line.

I know one of the proposed amendments is the status of Ouje-Bougoumou. Is there a good chance for that community?

Awashish: Ouje-Bougoumou has expressed the need for an amendment so we can incorporate the community as a Band. Logically, it shouldn't be so hard because the governments treat them as a separate band from the other communities. This needs to be stressed with the government of Canada. This matter of the land transfer has not been settled with the governments. The problems are thrown into the pot of Cree issues so there isn't a particular issue that is isolated. The government tends to say they need an overview of the Cree issues rather than individual issues which can be resolved.

Next Issue: The commission's recommendations.

www.beesum-communications.com

www.beesum-communications.com

our NEW email address:
beesum@beesum-communications.com

Crees and Quebec Talks but no Agreement Signed To Withdraw from Court

It was incorrectly reported by Canadian Press and on CBC Radio that the Crees of Northern Quebec and the Government of the Province of Quebec had signed an Agreement whereby the Crees would withdraw their court action on forestry and hold discussions with the Province on the outstanding forestry issues.

On October 6, the Grand Chief of the Crees of Eeyou Ischee received from Minister Chevrette a letter outlining his commitment to restart discussions on forestry issues that had been interrupted in June 1998 because of lack of progress. The Minister said that the discussions should take into consideration elements from a letter sent to the Minister by Cree Negotiator, Chief Billy Diamond on September 2, 1998.

Chief Diamond's letter outlined among other things the following forestry items as the agenda for such an exchange:

1.forest allotments for the Cree communities;
2.implementation of a land-use plan to be developed with Cree involvement;
3.a moratorium on new cutting areas;
4.direct involvement of the trappers in discussions;
5.Cree involvement in the scheduled (fall 98) review of forestry laws and regulations and this also to be the subject of direct negotiations;
6.information on Quebec revenues from forestry to be provided as part of discussions on revenue sharing;
7.role of the environment regime in respect to forestry to be discussed;
8.discussion of principles of respect for Cree fundamental rights, need for Cree involvement in economic development related to forestry, protection of the Cree traditional way of life, partnership in the sharing of forestry derived financial benefits.

The Minister also expressed his agreement with the Grand Chief's suggestion that negotiations are preferable to the courts to resolve problems and that the court challenges need not be pursued vigorously if there is progress in the forthcoming out-of-court negotiations. The process is to last until March 31st, 1999 at which time the parties will evaluate the results. "We would like to resolve this out of court but we need evidence of substantial political will from Quebec to change the present forestry regime and attitude toward the respect for Cree rights," said Grand Chief Dr. Coon Come.

The Cree chiefs will meet to discuss the letters exchanged in order to take the necessary actions. Grand Chief CoonCome confirms that: "We are ready to discuss these matters with Quebec to see if there is a way to reconcile forestry development with the requirements of the Crees for environmental protection, remediation of damages and protection of the Cree way of life and the Cree right to benefit and dispose of the resources of our traditional territory as we see fit. For the present we have decided not to proceed with the filing of our request to the courts for an interlocutory injunction. The procedural matters concerning the larger question and the basic case will proceed."

The Cree court action concerns the Cree aboriginal, treaty and international rights to pursue their traditional way of life over the whole extent of their traditional lands without interference from forestry development. The Cree claim concerns damages that have been experienced by the Crees to date as a result of inappropriate and illegal forestry activities. It also concerns the application of environmental protection to forestry development. The Crees claim that the Quebec legal framework for the conduct of forestry activities in the Territory is in breach of the Cree rights in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and other legal instruments.

The relief asked for is a declaratory statement of Cree rights in the area of forestry, and a declaration that Quebec has breached the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Forest Act, the Act Respecting Lands in the Public Domain, and the Environmental Quality Act. In addition it is asked that Quebec legislation concerning the CAAFs (Contrats d'Amenagement et d'Approvisionnement Forestier- Forest Allotment Contracts) be declared unconstitutional in Eeyou Istchee.

In addition it is asked that orders be granted against certain forestry companies from continuing their cutting on Eeyou Istchee.

The Plaintiffs include the Chiefs of the nine Cree communities, the Grand Chief, the Deputy Grand Chief, the Cree Trappers Association and its president, Mr. Edward Gilpin and 280 hunters and trappers from the Cree territory, Eeyou Istchee.

ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯᒧᐎᓐ ᓀᐦᐃᔨᓂᐊᓂᒃ (ᐃᔨᔭᐤ ᐄᔨᒋᐦᐋ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES
(EEYOU ASTCHEE)

ᓀᐦᐃᔨᓂᐊᓂᒃ ᑮᓇᐧᐃᐣ
Cree Regional Authority
Administration Regionale Crie

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Violence

A Cree woman faces violence every day in one of the communities

A FEW MONTHS AGO we were informed about an incident in which a Cree woman was gravely sexually and physically abused in one of the communities. Her injuries were so serious she had to be med'evaced to a southern hospital for emergency treatment. Doctors had never heard of such a serious case of violence against women in recent years.

To find out more about sexual assault and violence, we spoke with Dr. Robert Harris, who lives in Chisasibi and works for the Cree Health Board's Public Health Module. Dr. Harris said a Cree woman faces violence at least once every day somewhere in the Cree communities. ***BY ALEX ROSLIN***

***The Nation*: How big of a problem do you think sexual assault is in the Cree communities?**

Dr. Robert Harris: I would group it under what you would call family violence, or violence against women. It's because I think sexual assault is an extreme form of violence against a woman. It's not separate from everything else. The reason people are using the term family violence is because sometimes we focus a lot on violence against women, which is probably the biggest problem, but people want to forget violence against children. More importantly, the most forgotten of all, is violence against Elders. That's why people are using the term family violence to force us not to only think of women, but children and the Elders, who nobody thinks about too much.

Violence against Elders is a big problem?

It's not so much that someone takes a stick or starts punching an Elder. It's more verbal. Violence is not just hitting, it's also verbal violence, which is like, "Oh, shut up, you have nothing to say." Or neglect, not helping them change (their clothes), or with their bath, or not cooking for them. And the other one is not listening to them. One thing I do get a lot of comments about is when, say, an Elder's home is taken as a party place. It becomes a place where people come and drink. They won't go to another place because a younger person can kick them out. If it's an Elder they just ignore them. So that's a type of violence against Elders.

What kind of results do you see of this in your hospital work?

Well, they don't complain too much and they learn to go through a lot of tough things, just sort of endure it. There's very few times that they come and complain. But sometimes, other relatives will come who can complain for them. What you will see is you'll go there and there's an Elder who's depressed who doesn't feel they have any more role at all. Depression goes with loss of appetite. Eventually, it just leads to worse health overall.

What would you say are the causes of this?

I see it many times when there's some disintegration of the family. For example, say, the middle generation (the Elder's children) are away or if they die, because of the absence of that generation, sometimes the next generation, the grandchildren, grow up with problems. Once they become teens or young adults they can get into the drinking scene. They don't think they're harming anybody. They're just doing what they want to do, and that old person, well, they don't listen to them any more. They don't think they're worth it. It's a complicated issue. Many times it's when there's a death or somebody in the middle who was keeping the family together, often a woman, when she for some reason dies, everybody's left without an anchor.

I've heard that one or two times a month at the hospital there's a women who comes in who's been both sexually and physically abused in a very serious way. Does that sound right to you?

It sounds right, yes. For sure. And I would say those are the serious cases, the ones everybody knows about. With more mild cases it's very frequent.

How frequent is very frequent?

Like very frequent. I think if you take the whole region, I mean this is an estimate, but it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that every day there's a women being seen for something related to violence against her. And I'm sure some doctors would say it's even more.

Is alcohol a factor in a lot of those cases?

The serious ones that come once or twice a month, the big ones, you can say maybe 90 per cent of the time the abuser was under the influence of alcohol or another drug. However, the one that's every day, this other violence or abuse happens with or without alcohol. The one we see every day is the woman who comes with abdominal pains and she's not really sure where they're coming from; they've seen two other specialists; they've had all kinds of tests; and nobody knows where the pain is coming from. And you ask, How are things at home? Are there any problems with your partner? They start crying and it comes out. The abuse to that women is happening with or without alcohol.

On top of the cases that are reported are there a lot that

continued on page 20

Violence against women...

continued from page 19

don't get reported?

Yes. What comes to the clinic is the tip of the iceberg.

In what percentage of the cases you see is someone charged with an offense?

I guess I could say a small percentage. I would say about 10 per cent. That is a rough estimate.

Is there a problem with how these offenses are being treated by the authorities?

No. I think the main problem is, first, that women don't want to go to the police. Why don't they? Number one is fear, their fear of being beat up more. Number two is that they feel sorry for the abuser. They know their abuser has their own problems. They cannot be an abuser without having their own problems. That's why they're abusing. They're not doing it for fun. They know that more than anybody else, so they don't want to get them into more trouble.

Number three is what other people will say. People will say, How can you be so mean? So, basically, lack of support. Although we must say there's a movement against violence (in Chisasibi) and there's been two talk shows that went to two in the morning, one in August and one in September, where a lot of people opened up and talked about their own experiences - men who had been abusers and women who have been abused. I think that's a positive thing. That led to a lot more people showing up to the health clinic with their stories. I think it's going to lead to a lot more community support.

It's maybe something that's needed in all the communities, more support for these situations?

Oh, definitely... And number four is they hear stories in the past of women going to make complaints (to the police) and not being taken seriously. So they say, What's the point? It doesn't help. But in Chisasibi I can say that's changed. The complaints are taken seriously.

Who is the abuser in the most typical case? Is it usually a friend, is it "date rape," or a spouse?

The number one abuser is the partner, the spouse, boyfriend, husband.

In the sexual assaults also?

You know the concept that you swear at your girlfriend, and after that you push her, and after that you punch her in the stomach and then you come in drunk at 3 in the morning and you expect to have sexual relations with her and she doesn't want to, so you assault her, you rape her. Before it used to be a man's right, but now we know that's a rape. That's the most common one. The reason we don't hear much about it is because people say, well, we still don't believe it. They are a couple. We don't believe it. But it hurts them just as much.

The other one, the isolated sexual assault you always hear about in the movies where you're walking in a dark alley or the bad part of the bush, and someone jumps on you and rapes you and runs away - those are very rare. They grab headlines but those are very rare. Ninety per cent of the murders of women in Canada are committed by the partner.

What would you tell a women who had such an experience?

The first thing is to go look for help. Tell other people. You have to tell your friends or relatives. And for sure come into the clinic to see a nurse or doctor, or before anybody else, the community workers. Get in contact with them. There are difficult situations. It's easy for me to say go to a women's shelter, lay charges, but the fear is real. They know the police cannot keep them away and this (laying charges) takes a few weeks. But I think because the fear is real, the second advice is protect yourself. If that means going to a women's shelter, do it. You're fear is real. Violence does happen. Bad injuries do happen - fractures and stabbings.

Number three is lay charges. That's not being mean to the person. We all know the abuser needs help. Sometimes having to face charges, the way they hit bottom, that's when they say, wow, this is serious and, yeah, ok, I'll go to a treatment program, I'll get help. Because many times these men don't want to get help. It sounds paradoxical, but that's the best way to help them, is to lay charges.

Then that goes to the rest of the community. We all have to understand why a woman would be laying charges and try to understand that that's a way of helping somebody. Because many times you hear the relatives of the man calling the woman, saying: Go back to him, number one, and drop the charges, number two.

Are there enough treatment or healing programs out there for the women and men?

That's a very good question. The first answer is no. For sure we have to develop more things. For the women there's more support. There's more people who are willing to listen and spend the time. There are shelters, at Chisasibi and Val d'Or. We need more community awareness. Like for employers to understand when their employee cannot come in, even if they may look healthy. Being a victim of violence, you cannot work. So they should try to understand and give them medical leave.

For men, because it's a very complicated issue, we offer them one-on-one counseling. But I think the only effective treatment for a man is that individual counseling, plus a whole other program which we don't have. This would include talking to other men, peer support, vocational training (am I going to keep a job or not), exercising, meditation, there's a whole series of things. Very few places have that, but it's the only thing that's been found to be effective.

What about for the Elders?

I have to say Elders are the forgotten lot. One thing we've done that's effective is something that's very traditional. It's basically a circle in the house. I've participated in two of them in five years, so it doesn't happen that much. But they've been very effective. The whole extended family gets together with the Elder and with the people who are having the problems, and in a very non-judgemental way everybody starts saying what they see as the problem. There's always a lot of tears. In those two cases, I think the young people got the message and I don't think they knew what they were doing to the old man.

From Waskaganish to... "Baie Comeau Drakkar" Camp

At 17, Miles Cowboy wants to give a professional hockey career a shot. The "Baie Comeau Drakkar" hockey club (QMJHL) invited Cowboy to its training camp last summer. "The overall experience in Baie Comeau was very interesting. Skating was so fast and the style of play was pretty new to me, but at the same time I found it so challenging," Snowboy says. "I had to adapt very fast and I took all the 'hits.'"

And in the middle of the training camp, Cowboy met with the Drakkar organization and was told his potential was interesting, but he should concentrate on developing his upper body if he wants to pursue a higher hockey level.

Right after this camp, Cowboy moved to North Bay to register at College. Then he got invited to going the "Comètes d'Amos," in the Juvenile League, Abitibi-Témiscamingue. "Right at first practice, I felt like I belong to that league," he says. But, the same night, Cowboy took the decision to head back to North Bay where his newborn son lives, and where he thought he would get more exposure.

Miles now has an option to play in two different hockey leagues in North Bay: the Midget AA and Inter-College leagues. The exposure to professional hockey is also to be considered out there, as if Cowboy joins the Inter-College league he may get noticed by scouts who travel across Canada to look for future prospects in the American University Hockey League.

Cowboy also says: "I've learned a great deal in hockey from this experience in Baie Comeau. And I know what I have to work on."

Miles Cowboy's short-term goal is to be invited back to the QMJHL this summer. His long-term goal is to pursue his education, get a degree in Recreation & Leisure, and move back to Waskaganish where he can work with children of his community.

Here's a young man with a clear vision of his future and a promising career... for the benefit of Waskaganish. Good luck, Cowboy!

Profile

Name	Miles Cowboy
Date of birth	1981-05-22 (17 years old)
Height	5'11"
Weight	168
Education, 1998/99	North Bay College (1st year), Recreation & Leisure services
Favourite Music	Dance hits
Fetish animal	Wolf
Favourite wild food	Moose meat
Sports idol	Pavel Bure
Where did you play hockey in 97/98	Waskag. Midget "Charters"
Favourite sport besides hockey	Softball
Best hockey memory	Winning "Amanda Shecapio" Award last spring in Rouyn

Other hockey news

Jonathan Cheechoo, still property of the San Jose Sharks, has been recently sent back to the minors, joining the Belleville Bulls, Ontario Hockey League. Cheechoo played a few exhibition games and then began the season accumulating four goals and three assists in his first four regular games. He stands as the 2nd top scorer of his team behind Justin Papineau.

Amy Diamond, from Waskaganish, is also working on her own goal: play for an Elite girls' hockey team. She has joined the Toronto Red Wings Bantam AA girls' team in Willowdale, Ontario, and will be playing there this coming season.

Ernie Trapper from Mistissini and **Johnny Cooper** from Waswanipi are in the process of joining the Comètes d'Amos in the Juvenile league. The Comètes need these two talented players on their roster as they face a struggling season from the beginning. Ernie will register in the regular sector, secondary, at Polyvalente La Foret, in French. Johnny is still looking for either a job in Amos or correspondence studies as the Juvenile hockey rules do not allow their hockey players to stay inactive during the day.

Hockey for now!

BY DOLORES AUDET-WASH

Fax: (819) 855-2098
Tel.: (819) 855-2608 (res.)
(819) 855-2844 (work)

Cont'd from page 13

Aboriginal people have the same issues as the rural area. In that there's political information that we don't get in the urban area. So we're really struggling to find out what's happening with self-government and what's happening with our own rights as Native people. We don't have a voice here. I don't have any information from my reserve saying what decisions are being made there. Whether the medical benefits are being cut, the school allowances are being cut. I don't have any connection so I can voice my concerns and be part of that decision-making process. This is the difficulty we're in. But I want the rural to know that there are a lot of woman here who do want to go back home but feel so devastated from the abuse issues or because there's no employment. They feel they can't go back. But that's where their heart is.

Thank you for your time.

To get in touch with the AWM. Call 514 875 8955 or fax 514 954 1899

MISTISSINI EEYOU TAXI

George J. Matoush
PROPRIETOR
450, Mistassini Blvd.,• Mistissini • (Québec) • G0W 1C0
Phone: (418) 923-3555
Resident: (418) 923-2743

BOMBARDIER EXTENSION
BEST
DE SERVICE TOTAL
ski-doo
Nortech
EQUIPMENT
942, 3e Rue, Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1R6
Tel.: (418) 748-8188
Fax: (418) 748-3448

REECOM
Mistissini Lake
Quebec G0W1C0
Patrick W. Forward
Kenneth C. MacLeod
Retail • Servicing • Consultations • Computer Graphics
Hours: 9-5 Mon-Fri
Phone:(418) 923-3980
www.weworkwonders

514-866-5090
GAY LINE
1-888-505-1010
Information and help for lesbians, gays and bisexuals.
Calls from family and friends welcome.
Open 7 - 11pm, 365 days a year.
We're here to listen when you want to talk.

CG's CARPET CLEANING
ABEL GUNNER
Satisfaction guaranteed!
10, Bedabin Street
Mistissini (Québec) G0W 1C0
Tél.: 418•923•2044
Fax: 418•923•2107
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • VEHICLES • UPHOLSTERY

Nuuhchimi Wiinuu
Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Cultural Tours
Dogsledding
Snowshoeing
Canoeing
Guided Tours for 1 day or 1 week in the bush
CALL: Dave & Anna Bosum
74 Opataca St. Ouje-Bougoumou QC G0W 3C0
Office/fax: **418-745-3500** Res: **418-745-3629**

GARAGE
A. CHAMBERLAND inc.
TOWING 24 HOURS - NIGHT 748-6886
581, 3e Rue, Chibougamau (Québec)
Tel.: (418) 748-4841
FREE oil change with the purchase of 4 tires!
Ask about our financing plan.
SUPER WINTER TIRE SALE
C.O.D.'s Accepted

Boulangerie Patisserie Cloutier Inc.
866, 3e Rue • Chibougamau • Qc.• G8P 1P9
We **specialize** in catering 5-1000 people.
We **supply** all the necessary table settings.
Tel.:748-6200 • Fax:748-6279

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

We'd like to congratulate "Sis" Priscilla Jolly and Thomas Wapachee on the birth their beautiful daughter Timyra born on the 3rd of October 1998 in Val D'Or. May the good Lord bless you all with lots of precious memories for the three of you to cherish. Take good care of her, whenever you need a sitter do not hesitate to bring her over at our place so Valeriesh can baby-sit...Ha!! Anyways remember we'll be there for you whenever you need help because we love your precious baby Timyra. Love Always Bro. Joseph, Brenda-Rose, Valeriesh and Patricia Jolly (Nemaska)

Congratulations to Wilfred and Jennifer Moses on the birth of their baby boy Kevin Lyle Nicolas Gordie, born on October 1st, 1998 at Val d'Or. 8 lbs., 9 oz. Now Kirk has someone to boss around. (Just kidding) With love, Barbara Hester (wask.)

Congratulations to Sarah and Leonard on the birth of their baby boy on Saturday, October 3, 1998. Take care of your two little ones. Hope to see you guys soon!! Your friend, Mary Niquanicappo

Congratulations to Priscilla Jolly and Thomas Wapachee on the birth of their Baby girl Timyra who was born on Sept. 5/98. May this baby girl bring you so much Joy and Happiness. Congratulations! Again. From All your friends in Nemaska.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to our auntie Janet Bobbish having a birthday on October 7. We love you so much and we miss you. See you soon! From Jocelyne, Mary Jane, Jordan and Selena (Waskaganish)

Happy second birthday to my precious "Jeejeesh" Neesha Chanan Shecapio on October 17. I know you still can't read this and I'll show it to you when you can read. I want you and others to know how much you mean to me. Four days after your first birthday your father and sister left this world, although you still didn't understand. I was overwhelmed with grief, I have never felt such pain in my heart for the loss of your father and sister. But you were always there for me. You are me comfort. You are my strength. Every time I would feel sad or lonely, you always put a smile on my face by you doing something or saying something funny. Every time I cry you would be there. To comfort me, hug me, kiss me and wipe my tears with your little hands. I truly thank God for you and I thank you for always being there for me.. I love you very much my precious Jeejeesh. Again, happy second birthday. With lots of love and lots of hugs. Mommy.

Happy birthday to my sister Floria S. Hester on October 21st. Hope you'll get what you wish for. But if your wish was wanting me to disappear. Guess what? Not a chance!! Ha ha. Hope you'll celebrate your birthday with you know what!!? (Booze) Just kidding. Have fun on your birthday. With love, your sis Barbie.

Happy birthday to a good friend of mine (Sherry D.) Hope you have fun but not too much. I would have to be there. if you were planning to have a lot! Take care (Jookits) See ya soon. From buddy Jookits and mista Jookits.

Happy birthday to my bro in Whap. Stanley B. on November 11, 98. Take care of yourself and quit smoking or you will always (Oustadoomk). Get it! Well, gotta go. Love you. From sis at leesa! By the way, is she dangerous! Ha, ha ha! Also a big smile going out to Caroline.

Happy belated birthday going out to Miyaubin (Jody) on October 12, 98 in Great Whale. Hope your day will be as special as you are. kiddo. Love you always, auntie Teresa in Ojay.

Happy birthday to Eric Rondeau on October 21 in Mtl. We love you and miss you (even the loud Satriani on your guitar) Lay off the Diablo until you finish your homework! Hi also to Alice, Paul, Matthew, Albert and Nadine. Love, Mom, dad and Simon.

This birthday wish goes out to a special girl Neesha-Chanan Amie Ann Julia Shecapio, whose birthday is on Oct. 17. Hope you will have a wonderful 2nd birthday and lots more to come. With Love all the way from Mistissini, Emily, Leonard and of course Anex.

Birthday greeting going out to my beautiful twin nieces on October 13. Betty Sonya Blueboy (wask) whatever or wherever you will be, have fun and don't do anything too crazy or wild (if you know what I mean) Jocelyne Tuesday Blueboy (Dixville) Even though you are so far away you are always in my thoughts and especially my heart. I wish you could be here with us. I miss you so much. Maybe one day you'll come home for good. I hope to see you soon,. take care of yourselves girls. I love you both and have fun. With love, your aunt Barbie. (Waskaganish)

Nation CLASSIFIEDS order form

Print your classified clearly in the space provided.

CATEGORY: [ ][ ][ ]

ANNOUNCEMENTS	MARKETPLACE
100 Births	200 For Sale
101 Birthdays	201 Trips
102 Weddings	202 For Rent
103 Anniversaries	300 PERSONALS
104 Graduations	400 EVENTS
105 Obituaries	500 MISC.

FREE! + $8 for every photo

(Send Money Order only.
Payable to: Beesum Communications)
MAIL TO: 5678 Parc Ave. Box 48036,
Mtl, QC H2V 4S8
OR FAX IT: (514) 278-9914
e-mail: classifieds@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds for Individuals are free, but you may want to make your classified stand out:

ALL BOLD CHARACTERS	$4	Photo (1 1/2 Inch high)	$8
BOLD HEADLINE	$4	BIG Photo (3 inches)	$15
Box around Ad	$4		

MAIL TO: 5678 Parc Ave. Box 48036, Mtl, QC H2V 4S8 OR FAX IT: (514) 278-9914
Money Order Payable to Beesum Communications. *The Nation* reserves the right to modify or refuse a classified. NOTE: We cannot ensure the accuracy of all classifieds

Happy birthday "Anagajee" on October 25. We love you. Kerrie and your wife.

Happy belated birthday to my special niece who is in North Bay, Ontario Cheryl A. Hester (October 11, 98) Hope you had fun on your birthday. Whatever you had planned. Take care of yourself and don't drink too much. You are in my thoughts and heart. I love you and miss you. P.S. give Kaitlyn a hug and kiss for me. With love, your aunt Barbie. (Wask.)

Happy birthday to Josh on October 16 and Natasha on October 26. Who knows how old they are. They're from Waskaganish. Also known as Mudville. Thank you.

Birthday wishes to my wonderful sister Janet Bobbish who has also become my best friend. Her birthday is on October 7. Happy birthday with love, Louisa (Waskaganish)

You are a wonderful mother, and a beloved wife. We thought maybe we would write you a little something in this prestigious little section which everyone loves to read. That's enough blabbin', we just wanted to wish you a happy birthday, and hope you enjoy yourself on your day. Love your husband Tony, son Brandon, and let's not forget the baby Amber-lane.(note: as they say," and many more to come We thought maybe we would write you a little something in this prestigious little section which everyone loves to read. That's enough blabbin' we just wanted to wish you a happy birthday, and hope you enjoy yourself on your day. Love your husband Tony, son Brandon, and let's not forget the baby Amber-lane.(note: as they say, & quot;and many more to come& quot;.)

Birthday wishes going out to Terrilyne Jewel Mattawashish on October 23, 98. We love you. From mom and dad (John and Paula)

Birthday wishes going out to Nathan Charles Mattawashish on October 16, 98. We love you. From mom and dad (John and Paula)

Wishing happiness to a friend of mine, Virginia Matoush. Birthday on October 19. Remember a friend grows more special every year. Virginia, all the times we've spent together. Special memories, all the laughter and excitement, all the sharing through the years have made me realize again what I have always known, there is nothing like a friend and no friend like my own. "Happy birthday" You're still catching up hun. Many more to come. P.S. Take care of my friend. Friend always, Stephanie Jolly. (Nemaska)

Birthday greetings going out to a friend of mine, not only is she a friend of mine, she's my daughter in law. She'll be celebrating her birthday on October 10th. May you have many more birthdays ahead. Happy birthday Brenda Rose.

Birthday hugs and kisses going out to our daddy, Paul Diamond on the 21st. Know what, daddy? I bet ya if we were your age when you were a boy we would have been best buddies. Happy birthday and we love you. Hugs and kisses, Israel and isaiah (Luboo)

This is a special birthday message going out to our son Dale. His birthday is on October 17 and he will be turning 18. Son, we just wanted to tell you happy birthday and to let you know how proud we are of you. Thank you for not despising our discipline in the first 17 years of your life. You have honored and loved us and we thank you so much for that. We hope that you will continue to make wise decisions for yourself. You've proven to us already that you are who you are and again we want to say how proud we are of you. We love you and remember we will always be there for you. And we pray that God will continue to bless and keep you in his loving care. With all our love, mom and dad (Gordon and Mary Jane.)

I would like to wish my best friend Randy Kakabat a Happy 22nd Birthday on September 14. You're getting too old buddy. Hope you have a wonderful day and Don't party too much. From your geeshtau, friend, Coffee.

Happy birthday to my friend in Waskaganish. Cherish Stepeh on October 10. Enjoy your day. Have fun. Hope to see you soon. From your friend in Mistissini, Kathleen. P.S. Call me sometimes.

Belated Birthday wishes to my niece LYNN BLACKNED who has celebrated her 4th Birthday in Chisasibi on October 4th. I hope that you enjoy your present I sent in the mail! Love from, Auntie Liz, Barry and your cousin Benjamin. PS we miss you. Just a big "HELLO" to Greg Blackned who is attending school in Misstasini. Keep up the good goal saving eh? and why haven't you call yet? We hope to hear from you soon! From your sis Liz and your nephew Ben. PS Say "hi" to your uncle Isaac and his family.

I would like to wish a Happy Belated B-hday to my 1 and only sister Stephanie B(Mtl) Happy B-day sis.Sisters were created, to bring us warmth and cheer.To listen to our confidences,To share our smiles and tears.Yet,we find as time goes by,our understanding grows.Its easy to be with them,theres no need to pretend,theres no one like a sister when you really need a friend...I miss you sis,hopefully I can come down and visit someday. 1 more thing, Thank you for being a wonderful sister. Hope u had fun on u'r b-day.Love sis Vicky(OJ)take care & good luck in school!

I would like to wish a Happy Belated B-hday to my 1 and only sister Stephanie B(Mtl) Happy B-day sis.Sisters were created, to bring us warmth and cheer.To listen to our confidences,To share our smiles and tears.Yet,we find as time goes by,our understanding grows.Its easy to be with them,theres no need to pretend,theres no one like a sister when you really need a friend...I miss you sis,hopefully I can come down and visit someday. 1 more thing, Thank you for being a wonderful sister. Hope u had fun on u'r b-day.Love sis Vicky(OJ) take care & good luck in school!

This birthday greeting to a very special boy Synee Coonishish who is turning three on Oct. 8th. We miss you very much and we are thinking about you on your day. Hope you have a lot of fun with your brothers. HUGZ AND KISSES and of course all your love, Candace, Tassa, Whastuskoon, Cassandra, Honey boy, Kookom, Gomshom and or course Cheryl.XOXO

I wanna wish a Happy 19th Birthday to my one and only brother John Paul Wap.(Nemaska)on October 6. Happy Birthday!!Do yourself a favour, work hard in school and don't let anything or anyone discourage you. Remember that this is your last year and make

the best of it, so Good Luck! Love always: your sister Celina.

Happy birthday to our Aunt,sister and daughter Rachel Danyluk Coonishish down in Moosonee Ontario.With Love from Cassandra, Tassa, Whastuskoon, Krystianne, Lorne, Sequan, Cheryl,Candae, Teresa, Floyd, Honey boy and Mom & Dad

Belated Birthday wishes to my niece LYNN BLACKNED who has celebrated her 4th Birthday in Chisasibi on October 4th. I hope that you enjoy your present I sent in the mail! Love from, Auntie Liz, Barry and your cousin Benjamin. PS we miss you.

Happy 18th birthday to our brother Dale. And like we told mom, we can't believe that you will actually be 18. Anyways, we love you even though sometimes we wish that the song "Brother For Sale" would really be for you especially the first part of the song. We are proud to have a brother like you and may God bless you on your special day. Thank you for being an example to us. We love you so mucch. With all our love, Crystale, Matthew and your baby sister Mary Jane.

I would like to wish my son a happy birthday on October 6th. I just wanted to take this time to tell you that I love you and I care for you. Don't think that I regret in having you. You are my son and always will be. I know I haven't quite filled the role of a mother because you have been raised by your grandmother. This doesn't mean that I didn't love you. It was out of love that I let grandma raise you, for you to have a better life. I will always be grateful for her, you turned out to be a fine handsome man. Already, you'll be celebrating that 21st birthday. So happy birthday Richard and many, many more to come. Please don't drink too much on your special day. Love always, Mom.

Happy belated birthday to a special girl Melissa. Her birthday is on September 21st. Hope you enjoy your birthday. We love you. From Mom Kathleen, bro Steven and sis Rita.

A belated birthday wish going out to our dear daughter, Maxine, on Sept. 11. We love and miss you and Chantal. Congratulations on your new baby girl on Sept. 10. Love always Mom & Dad

Happy second birthday to our adorable little girl Sonia Gunner. Hope your day is as special as you are. Love always, mom and dad, Trisha and Nigel (October 10)

We would like to wish our handsome son, Tyler Shanush a Happy 4th Birthday on September 15. Always remember how proud we are of you and how much we love you! Enjoy your cake and candies! Love Mom & Dad (Wemindji)

Allo Richard!! Happy 2nd Birthday nephew(Sept.4) I'm sorry missed your birthday again. Hope you had fun. Lots of love your auntie, Liybelle I miss you!!

Happy 18th Birthday to my friend Trina Hookimaw celebrating on August 16. From your friend Peggy Sutherland

Happy birthday to a good friend of mine on October 9, 98. I wish you lots of wishes that you want them to come true. Enjoy your day. Take you time and God bless you with love always, From a friend who cares about you. Friend always, XXXXXXX

Happy second birthday to my precious "Jeejeesh" Neesha Chanan Shecapio on October 17. I know you still can't read this and I'll show it to you when you can read. I want you and others to know how much you mean to me. Four days after your first birthday your father and sister left this world, although you still didn't understand. I was overwhelmed with grief, I have never felt such pain in my heart for the loss of your father and sister. But you were always there for me. You are me comfort. You are my strength. Every time I would feel sad or lonely, you always put a smile on my face by you doing something or saying something funny. Every time I cry you would be there. To comfort me, hug me, kiss me and wipe my tears with your little hands. I truly thank God for you and I thank you for always being there for me.. I love you very much my precious Jeejeesh. Again, happy second birthday. With lots of love and lots of hugs. Mommy.

I want to wish my boyfriend Alain in Rouyn-Noranda a very happy birthday on November 2. I love you and I miss you. See you soon. Love always, Annie. XXXXXXXXXXXXX.

I would like to say hi, happy birthday to Robin Stocken in Eastmain on October 7. Enjoy your day. I miss you a lot. ILU. Don't party too much!! Hope to see you soon. From that girl im Mistissini. You know me. P.S. Call me. 923-3436.

Happy birthday to a friend in Pikogan on October 13, 1998. Wish you a good time and a feast. I hope you're enjoying your day. From Lucie M. Pepabano. Happy birthday dear Joyce, happy birthday to you!!! Friends always, your buddy. You are twenty seven years old. Wow!

Birthday wishes going out to a special man in my life, Paul Diamond on the 21st of October. My love for you grows stronger with every beat of my heart. So as each day get here you will be showered with love. I hope your birthday will be as beautiful as you are in my eyes. With eternal love, Emily Bosum.

Appy birthday on Monday eh? Don't forget, it's also the start of Fire Prevention Awareness Week. So we"ll keep the fires to a minimum by lighting only twentynine candles. L, BF.

102-WEDDINGS

We would like to congratulate Mr.& mrs.Micheal Mianscum on their marriage on Aug.22'98. May Joy, happiness, laughter and most of all, LOVE be with you both through you marriage. God bless you both From: Joseph and Brenda-Rose Jolly (Nemaska

We would like to congratulate Andrew and Nanny on their wedding on August 28, 1998. We wish you all the best that happiness and love can provide. We're sorry we couldn't be there in person. from: A.C & J.H.M (Hull)

Congratulations to Charlene and Wayne on their wedding on August 28,1998. From your Gee-doom-sij(L,T,S,K,T,etc.) Best Wishes and have a wonderful life together.

Congratulations to my friend and husband Philemone and Matthew Rabbitskin on their wedding day on September 25, 98. We wish you all the best and God bless you both. Love and friendship, Paula and John Matt. (Mistissini). Philemone, I just wanted to tell you how nice you looked on your wedding day. And I was very happy that you finally got married. (Ha!) In friendship, Paula Matt. Well, you finally did it and we're sending our congratulations to the both of you again. We're

glad that everything went okay for you guys on that one special day of September 11, 1998... when the two of you, Philip and Jeanette, exchanged vows to begin your lives together as man and wife. We wish all the best in the years to come and may your lives be filled with many more joys. From Diane, Johnny and Collinsh

I would like to congratulate Richard S. and Jeanette B. on their wedding. Sorry I couldn't make it, but they made me go to school.(Just Kidding!!) I wish both of you all the best in the world. From: a friend. (in Hull)

Congratulations to Suzi and Walter Rupert on their wedding on October 9. 1998. We wish you all the happiness along the life and many kids to come. From Harry, Laura, Wally, Paddy, Jessie, rex, Lucie, Martin, Tina and jeremy, Steven, Gabriel and two babies to come.

Congratulations to Suzie and Walter on October 9, 1998. From Fred and Margaret Mowatt your parents, your uncles and aunts Jos Mowatt and Elizabeth Mapachee, Louise and Jimmy Mckenzie, Annie and Fred Trapper, George Mowatt and Harry and laura McKenzie, Agnes McKenzie and Raymond Polson.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

To Dalana and Francois Turgeon: Happy anniversary on October 5th. May your love be renewed by the memories you treasure, the dreams you share and the joy you've found together!!!! With love, the Matoushes.

I would like to wish my parents Jimmy & Caroline Bosum a Happy Belated 29th Anniversary on Sept 5,69.(Saah 29 years is long time,I'll say)Just a little note 2 tell you both that I'm very thankful for what you both have done for me through the years,for the love that you have given me, & 4 always being there, but words cant express how much I love you both so much. Love your daughter Vicky (OJ)

Happy second anniversary to my husband Leonard. I love you. Kim. October 12,1998.

Happy Anniversary going out to my parents Emma and George Sutherland celebrating their 33rd on August 6. Love always your Children

Happy Anniversary going out to Clarence and Martina Williams celebrating their 3rd on August 26. Love your Family

Happy Anniversary going out to Elijah and Catherina Sutherland celebrating their 3rd on August 6. Love your Family

One year has gone by and the love is still growing in yous. I'd like to wish my friend and cousin Rita Cap on her first anniversaries with Daniel D. Bosum (November 22) From Kathleen and Minnie.

Happy 11th anniversary to Smally & Lizzie Brien on Oct 2. Wishing you happiness always. Edna in Nemaska

I would like to wish my parents Jimmy & Caroline Bosum a Happy Belated 29th Anniversary on Sept 5,69.(Saah 29 years is long time,I'll say)Just alittle note 2 tell you both that I'm very thankful for what u both have done for me through the years,for the love that u have given me, & 4 always being there, but words cant express how much I love u both so much. Love your daughter Vicky (OJ)

300-PERSONALS

Hello to the youth of the Cree Nation! Wanna Penpal? Want somebody to talk to? Say a girl like 16/F? Well, I'm looking for anybody male or female from ages 13-19 years of age to exchange e-mails. All you have to do is e-mail me and tell me about your self and I promise to respond. My e-mail address is: kraziecool@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from y'all.

Bonjour a une amie qui a demenager a Ottawa pour ses etudes on trouve pas ca dole ici mais on s'ennui pareil pis la vie a Ottawa comment ca va? Ici s'est l'fun quand il y a des party, j'espere tu reviendra pour ta graduation pour quon fasse un party. De t'ai amie a Ouje (maison 56)

To The person I miss most in this world My Favorite Nephew Ricky Ross Mark Garret Jolly In Amos I miss you very much and I hope I see you Soon. Happy Halloween On Oct, 31 but don't go trick or treating I Love you so much, a tout mon coeur et pour Toujours! Love:Auntie Cynthia In Nemaska. Can't wait to see you Baskie#2.

On October 12, 1996 my uncle Norman Niquanicappo died with his friend by drowning. Their boat tipped over in a storm. I would like to say to my family, the other family and to whoever was affected by it. Be strong and time will heal. I will pray for you and may the creator bless you. It was a pleasure knowing them. From Mary Niquanicappo in Montreal.

To my Friendz Sarah and Caroline B. Wishing you both all the very best at Cambrian College ! To Kevin and Sheila , Congratulations ! And thanks for the ride. from Tom all the way from North Bay

ESCAPE. IRRESISTABLE CARIBBEAN beauty invites you to experience the essence of pleasure. Enjoy a sensual full body massage. Private, comfortable atmosphere. Sponge bath/ shower available. Student/ morning rates. Discreet downtown location. 514-932-0935, 514-933-7143.

Just a big "HELLO" to Greg Blackned who is attending school in Misstasini.Keep up the good goal saving eh? and why haven't you call yet? We hope to hear from you soon! From your sis Liz and your nephew Ben. PS Say "hi" to your uncle Isaac and his family.

I never realized, how sweet you looked the day we met, and had a smile I couldn't forget. I never realized that you were the whisper of a summer breeze, and had a laugh that put my soul at ease. I never realized that you were the rainbow in the clear blue sky, and had a hue that caught my eye. I never realized that you were the sweetest song ever played, and had the best rhyming ever made. But now I realize that I am in love with you in a very special way. Dedicated to Marco Voyageur in Mistissini. You came into my life like a burst of sunlight. I thank God we're together. With love truly madly deeply, Naomi.

There's a place in my heart just for you. A place where no one else has reached, a place where only you have touched by just smiling at me, or the way you hold my hand or by being yourself when we are alone. Just wanted to remind you how much I'm in love with you. I love you with all my heart (Forever love) With love always, BRH.

I just wanted to say hello to my friends that I haven't seen or heard from in a while. Joshua Iserhoff, Beth Sealhunter, Alice Wapachee, Pauline and Marie Claude Lameboy, Irene Rupert and Ramona Beck. Hope to hear from you soon. Friend Barbara Hester. (Waskaganish)

I would like to reach sisters Kimberley and Wanita Sackney from Moose Factory, Ontario. The last time I heard from you was in 87 or before. We met in Deseronto, Ontario. I lost your address because I live in Chisasibi, Quebec. Please write me OK! L. Mckenzie, P.O. Box 231, Chisasibi, Qc., J0M 1R0.

You tracked down the lyrics to an old song, traded jokes with a pal in MELBOURNE, and transferred funds between BANK accounts. All of it while at the library.

It's amazing what you can do when you connect to the Net. You can calculate the value of your Canada Savings Bonds. You can pick up helpful tips on buying a home, or plan your dream vacation. There's a world of information just waiting to be discovered. Become a "Connected Canadian" – at home, school or work, or at a library near you. It's easier than you think. It's quick and it's fun. The sooner we're all connected, the better prepared we'll be for success in the 21st Century. Learn more about how you can get connected, and about the thousands of public places the Government of Canada is helping to connect.

Connecting Canadians is a Government of Canada initiative helping Canadians to become the most connected people on earth, ready for the jobs and opportunities of today's knowledge-based economy.

"I hired two students through the Internet."

"I've been reading up on census data for a research project."

"I made sure that a parcel I mailed to my mom arrived safely."

"I found out how to get started in exporting."

For your free information kit, call **1-800-575-9200** or TTY: **1-800-465-7735** or visit our Web site at **http://www.connect.gc.ca**

connecting.canadians

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

AIR CREEBEC BONUS PLAN !
COMING SOON !!!
AIR CREEBEC
AIR CREEBEC
FLY AND GET FREE GIFTS !!!!